



FENCES

The Columbus Zoning Code regulates the height and location of a fence. Deed restrictions or covenants may also prohibit certain kinds of fences or specify allowed locations of fencing in the subdivision. The city does not regulate nor enforce deed restrictions; other homeowners or civic associations in a subdivision may regulate them as well as other subdivision rules.

A few things to remember:

1. Fences 6 feet or less in height are not regulated as a structure and can be placed in the rear yard with no setback from the property lines.
2. Know property lines to avoid possible disputes with a neighbor. The city does not locate property lines nor mediate property line disputes resulting from misplaced fences. A fence 6 feet or less in height does not require a building permit, but the Zoning Code regulates the placement of fences even if they are less than 6 feet tall under certain circumstances related to safe visibility for motor vehicle operation.
3. Privacy fences over 6 feet in height are regulated as structure and are subject to setback requirements, including side yards. Fences over 6 feet in height also require a building permit. If considering a fence over 6 feet tall, please call the Building Services Division Customer Service Center , 645-7314.
4. The Zoning Code regulates the placement and opacity of fences in the front yard when a lot or any abutting lot has a driveway to the street. The purpose of this is to ensure the vehicle operator can see other vehicles and pedestrians. Call the Building Services Division Customer Service Center, 645-7314, if considering any type of fence in the front yard.
5. The Zoning Code regulates the height, location, and opacity of fences on corner lots. Zoning Staff encourages anyone considering a fence on a corner lot to come to the Building Services Division Customer Service Center with a site plan before the fence is erected so compliance with corner lot requirements can be verified.
6. The city does not regulate whether the “good side” or “bad side” of a fence is toward a neighbor.

Zoning encourages review of a proposed fence before the fence is erected. Fence review is done “over the counter”. No appointment is necessary. A visit to the Building Services Division Customer Service Center is less trouble than removing a fence. Phone: 645-7314. Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.